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CONTRIBUTIONS OF 4-H CLUB WORK
TO THE
FARM AND HOME LABOR SITUATION

It has been said that he grows most who serves most. This philosophy has permeated the 4-H Club program. The war has brought many new and challenging opportunities for rural young people to serve in their homes, on their farms, and in their communities. One of the great satisfactions which will come this year to many thousands of 4-H Club members is the feeling that they are doing their full part in helping to relieve the farm labor shortage. In many communities this summer 4-H members will also come in contact with town and city young people who will be helping farm people carry on the important job of producing food. These young people will be known as Victory Farm Volunteers and will be in a position to render real service if proper assistance is given them.

Therefore, there seem to be two major ways in which the 4-H Clubs can help in solving the farm labor shortage:

1. Enlist the help of every rural young person in the community to do his or her full part to relieve the labor shortage.
2. Help the Victory Farm Volunteers to do their full part to relieve the labor shortage.

THE 4-H CLUBS MAY ENLIST THE HELP OF EVERY RURAL YOUNG PERSON
IN THE COMMUNITY TO DO THEIR FULL PART IN HELPING
TO RELIEVE THE LABOR SHORTAGE

Already 4-H members have demonstrated the worth-while contribution which they can make in helping to relieve the farm and home labor shortage. Some of the ways in which they can contribute, as reported by 4-H members, are given below.

1. Help to develop the morale of all rural young people engaged in relieving the labor shortage by encouraging them to take part in 4-H activities.

As many rural young people as possible should be enrolled as 4-H members. Each 4-H Club should be responsible for making contact with all rural young people in the community. A community map as a part of the secretary's book may prove useful in locating and keeping track of every rural young person. Those not so enrolled should be encouraged to attend 4-H meetings and other 4-H events that involve activities of importance in winning the war. All young people should be made to feel that they are needed and why they are needed. A special initiation ceremony might be developed for use at the time these young people enroll. A strong effort may be made to encourage new members to attend such 4-H events as picnics, tours, and overnight camps. Special 4-H neighborhood leaders may be selected

to supervise the work of club members in each neighborhood reached by the community 4-H Club. The experienced community 4-H leader may help these new 4-H neighborhood leaders to get started and to gear their activities into those of the general community 4-H program.

2. Increase the size of 4-H Club projects, or go into partnership with parents, taking over one or more farm enterprises.

Reports indicate that 4-H members are well aware of the importance of producing as much food as possible for our fighting men, our allies, and for those at home. The appeal, "Feed a Fighter in 1943," has received a hearty response. What 4-H members have already done toward this end deserves much commendation. The larger 4-H goals set for this year are most encouraging.

3. Work extra hours on their own or neighboring farms.

In many 4-H Clubs, members keep track of the number of hours of farm labor performed. The club may give special recognition to members who complete a certain number of hours. In Connecticut during the past year, 4,000 members who kept track of their time reported having done 2,000,000 hours of work on their own or other farms. This is equivalent to the work of 600 full-time farm workers. At an estimated rate of 25 cents an hour, it is equivalent to \$500,000.

4. Do the housework while mother is engaged in work outside the home, either on the farm or in industry.

This is a time when girls especially may be given a splendid opportunity to learn how to manage and work more efficiently in the home. Each 4-H girl taking over the complete management of the home, particularly during "peak" seasons, should learn how to reorganize at least one household job, such as preparing a meal to save motion, steps, and time. The 4-H project for the care of younger children fills a real need in localities where mothers are employed in defense plants or are called upon to relieve the labor shortage at home or on a neighboring farm.

5. Give special demonstrations at community meetings to show good practices especially recommended at the present time, to show how farm and home work may be simplified and how new farm workers may be trained to do such simplified tasks.

Demonstrations in the canning, drying, brining, or storing of fruits and vegetables are especially needed at this time, as are also those which show short cuts to save time and effort in the work of the farm and home. Demonstrations to show how to avoid accidents on the farm and in the home, and how to give first aid are equally important.

6. Show special appreciation to local 4-H leaders for the assistance and encouragement given.

This is always important but it is especially so at this time. Many men and women have volunteered to be leaders for the first time this year. They may be confused as to their responsibilities and what is expected of them. This may be especially true of the new 4-H neighborhood leaders. Words and other tokens of appreciation by 4-H Club members as individuals or as a club may clear away much of such confusion. That local leaders help 4-H Club members to do a worth-while piece of work is sufficient reason for an expression of appreciation.

7. Help younger club members to get started in 4-H Club work.

To do so will relieve busy local 4-H Club leaders of some of the work involved in guiding the 4-H Club program and will free part of their time for helping more young people. Older 4-H members may render much service by becoming local 4-H leaders or assistant 4-H leaders, especially on a neighborhood basis. They, too, can help reach more rural young people.

8. Invite parents to community or neighborhood meetings.

At such meetings 4-H members may report what the club as a whole has done in helping to relieve the farm and home labor shortage. They may also discuss how they can help still more to relieve that shortage.

9. Report to local newspapers the work that has been done.

The 4-H Club reporter can easily give the local newspaper editor a report of the work 4-H members are doing to relieve the labor shortage and information on any special recognition for outstanding achievements which they may have received in this connection. It may be well to point out that the 4-H Clubs of America, approaching the 2,000,000 mark in enrollment, are a vital part of the national effort to relieve the labor shortage and to produce the food so much needed at the present time.

10. Show the community what they, as 4-H members, are doing.

This can be done through window displays of work done, through window stickers or fence signs calling attention to their 4-H project work, and through wearing their 4-H pins or arm bands or other insignia. Clubs receiving special recognition in the form of certificates and the like may display them in some prominent place in the local community or county seat.

THE 4-H CLUBS MAY HELP THE VICTORY FARM VOLUNTEERS
TO DO THEIR FULL PART TO RELIEVE
THE LABOR SHORTAGE

The members of each 4-H Club may discuss and decide among themselves what definite responsibility each 4-H Club member shall assume in relation to the VEV's who may be employed in their community. The secretary of each 4-H Club may keep a list of responsibilities discussed and those assumed by individual 4-H members. A list of such suggestive responsibilities follows:

1. Entertain VEV's over weekends before time of actual employment, to help them to observe farm life and get acquainted with farm jobs and routine.
2. Inventory the farms in the neighborhood so as to know those farms that are to employ nonfarm youths and inform farmers of the ways the 4-H Clubs can help these nonfarm youths to become acquainted in the neighborhood.
3. Give the VEV's a friendly welcome when they arrive.
4. Help them to become quickly and happily acquainted with their new surroundings.
5. Warn them of farm hazards, particularly in connection with machinery and livestock, and show them how these should be handled.
6. Show them how to avoid physical strain and the hazards of work during intense heat of the day.
7. Give them sympathetic counsel regarding the work which they are doing in surroundings entirely new to them.
8. Help them to develop new skills, in cooperation with the farmers employing them.
9. Arrange for them to meet the local 4-H Club leader and others who may make their stay in the country more profitable and happy.
10. Invite them to meetings of the local 4-H Club and encourage them to participate in various activities that may be of special interest to them.
11. See to it that there is a happy exchange of urban and rural experiences at club meetings, or when in attendance at various 4-H events such as picnics, tours, or overnight camps.
12. Invite them to neighborhood and community meetings, including church and Sunday school to help them to become an integrated part of the community in which they are working.

WHAT EVERY 4-H MEMBER SHOULD KNOW AND LIVE BY IN
DOING HIS FULL PART IN HELPING TO WIN THE WAR

THE 4-H CLUB PLEDGE

I Pledge:

My Head to clearer thinking,
My Heart to greater loyalty,
My Hands to larger service,
My Health to better living, for
My Club, my Community, and my Country.

4-H CITIZENSHIP PLEDGE

We, individually and collectively, pledge our efforts from day to day, to fight for the ideals of this Nation.

We will never allow tyranny and injustice to become enthroned in this, our country, through indifference to our duties as citizens.

We will strive for intellectual honesty and exercise it through our power of franchise. We will obey the laws of our land and endeavor increasingly to quicken the sense of public duty among our fellow men.

We will strive for individual improvement and for social betterment. We will devote our talents to the enrichment of our homes and our communities in relation to their material, social, and spiritual needs.

We will endeavor to transmit this Nation to posterity not merely as we found it, but freer, happier, and more beautiful than it was transmitted to us.

THE NATIONAL 4-H CLUB CREED

I believe in 4-H Club work for the opportunity it will give me to become a useful citizen.

I believe in the training of my HEAD for the power it will give me to think, to plan, and to reason.

I believe in the training of my HEART for the nobleness it will give me to become kind, sympathetic, and true.

I believe in the training of my HANDS for the dignity it will give me to be helpful, useful, and skillful.

I believe in the training of my HEALTH for the strength it will give me to enjoy life, to resist disease, and to work efficiently.

I believe in my country, my State, and my community, and in my responsibility for their development.

In all these things I believe, and I am willing to dedicate my efforts to their fulfillment.

